

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 ARAE-00 /012 W

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P 161702Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4218

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 3968

FOR GEORGE KRIEGER, ARA/MGT FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, HO

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR TDY ASSIGNMENT OF AMERICAN SECRETARY

REF: STATE 7803

1. THE POLITICAL SECTION OF THIS MISSION HAS BEEN WITHOUT A SECRETARY (POSITION 10-032) SINCE THE DEPARTURE LAST JUNE OF MS. MAY WITT. IN THE MEANTIME, THE WIFE OF THE CHIEF OF THE SECTION HAS BEEN FILLING IN ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, SHE WILL BE UNABLE TO CONTINUE BEYOND THE END OF THIS MONTH. THERE ARE NO OTHER QUALIFIED DEPENDENTS AT THIS POST.

2. WE WERE RECENTLY INFORMED THAT MS. ORMSBEE, WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO REPLACE MS. WITT, HAD RESIGNED. WE ARE NOW INFORMED THAT MS. SCHNEIDER, WHO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE POSITION, HAS HAD HER ASSIGNMENT BROKEN; AND THAT MS. TRIAS HAS NOW BEEN ASSIGNED, PENDING APPROPRIATE TRAINING, AND THAT WE MAY EXPECT HER TO ARRIVE SOME TIME IN OCTOBER.

3. IN ANY NORMAL SITUATION, THIS FOUR-MONTH HIATUS WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH. BUT THE WORKLOAD OF THE POLITICAL SECTION HAS INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY AND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF ABATING, DUE TO DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT FLAREUP OF THE HONDURAN-EL SALVADORAN BORDER DISPUTE.

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4. WITHOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY ASSISTANCE IN ALLEVIATING THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF AMERICAN SECRETARIES AT THIS POST, I DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE TIMELY POLITICAL REPORTING AND ANALYSIS. ALTHOUGH FOUR STATE SECRETARIAL POSITIONS ARE AUTHORIZED FOR THIS EMBASSY, ONLY TWO ARE NOW FILLED, AND THIS HAS TAKEN AWAY ANY FLEXIBILITY WE WOULD HAVE HAD IN SHIFTING PERSONNEL FROM WITHIN OUR OWN RESOURCES.

5. FOR THESE REASONS, I URGE THE DEPARTMENT TO DETAIL ON TDY A QUALIFIED AMERICAN SECRETARY TO THIS POST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OR A NEIGHBORING POST FOR A PERIOD OF SIXTY DAYS OR UNTIL MS. TRIAS ARRIVES.

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING PROMPT AND FAVORABLE ACTION ON THIS REQUEST.
BARTCH

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